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**Testimony of Rep. Ann Hraychuck
Before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
Assembly Bill 110 – Background Checks for Law Enforcement Officers**

Good Morning, Chairman Turner, and committee members. I appreciate having the opportunity to speak with you about Assembly Bill 110.

Assembly Bill 110 requires a private employer doing business in Wisconsin to provide employment information on an individual who is being considered for a law enforcement position if requested by a municipal or county law enforcement agency.

In order to receive that employment information, the agency's request must be signed and in writing. It also must be accompanied by a release signed by the candidate for the law enforcement position which authorizes the former employer to release the relevant information.

Assembly Bill 110 does permit a law enforcement agency to obtain a court order mandating the release of employment information if an employer does not comply with a proper request.

There are two exceptions relating to this requirement. First, if any employment information is subject to a confidentiality agreement, the employer still must comply with the agency's request only if the release specifically authorizes the employer to provide that information to the agency. If the release does not contain such an authorization, the employer must inform the agency of the existence of the confidentiality agreement and comply with the agreement.

The second exception is if a court has prohibited the disclosure of relevant employment information, the employer must then inform the agency of the order and comply with the court's ruling.

As the former Sheriff of Polk County I hired a multitude of staff from dispatchers to jailers to deputies, and conducting a thorough background check on potential employees is crucial to hiring and retaining quality people in the name of public safety and also officer safety. By requiring a private employer to provide employment information on an individual who is being considered for a law enforcement position we can continue to keep our communities safe.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.